



## **Celebrating 27 years of Billfishing ~1989 to 2015~**

### **A Message from the Governor:**

On behalf of the people of the Palmetto State, I am pleased to welcome you to the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. Our state is blessed by an abundance of natural beauty and resources, and we are committed to conserving them for future generations. The Series was established, in part, to address the dwindling Atlantic billfish population, and it has been a huge success over the years. We are not only proud of our over 90% release rate, but also in knowing that neighboring state have joined in this effort. Michael and I are glad to have you participate in the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and hope everyone hooks a trophy fish to tag and release!

My very best, Governor Nikki Haley

The program is coordinated through  
The SC Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422-2559





# South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

The SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series is an annual umbrella event encompassing many of South Carolina's billfish tournaments. Boats participating in the Series amass points for billfish either landed or released. Anglers compete for three major awards: Outstanding Billfish (single heaviest billfish), Outstanding Billfish Boat (most accumulated points) and Billfish Conservationist (most points for released fish). In addition, the Blue Water Conservation Award is given to the boat that tags and releases the most dolphin, wahoo or tuna. By encouraging release of billfish, the Series has provided science with valuable information on these beautiful blue water species, focused attention on their decline, and encouraged conservation of all marine resources.

## Goals

- Promote the SC billfishing industry.
- Increase coastal tourism.
- Increase conservation efforts of our ocean blue water resources.

## Major Accomplishments

- Prior to the Governor's Cup, <10% of caught billfish were released. Today, >90% of caught billfish are released.
- In 1997, the Blue Water Conservation award was initiated.
- W.F. Pate Memorial Conservation Fund awards annual scholarships.
- North Carolina established their own Governor's Cup Series in 1991.
- In 1993, the Series received the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's Outdoor Ethics Conservation Award.
- South Carolina's 1998 Governor's Cup Billfishing Series generated \$1.5 million dollars in total sales and \$500,000 in income.



## 2014 Series Results

<u>Series Tournament</u>	<u>Boat Number</u>	<u>Release Number</u>
Georgetown	29	19
Bohicket	22	10
Carolina Billfish Classic	28	33
MEGADOCK	26	31
Edisto	20	19
Total Boat Participating		125
Total Released Billfish		112
Total Landed Billfish		1
Percent Release Rate		99.1%
Tuna, Dolphin, Wahoo		55
Total Tagged and Released		

## 2015 Schedule

- |                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament   | May 20 – 23  |
| • Bohicket Marina Billfish Tournament | June 3 – 6   |
| • Carolina Billfish Classic           | June 17 – 20 |
| • MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament     | July 8 – 11  |



## Exposure Opportunities

- Receive recognition at the annual awards reception.
- Appear in five issues of the *Tag and Release* newsletter, which is distributed to 1500+ mail and 400+ email recipients.
- Be featured on the SCDNR Governor's Cup website.
- Market special events hosted by your business.
- Distribute literature and display banners at all tournaments.
- Become part of each tournaments own advertising initiative.

## Donor - \$500

- Donation to a 501 - c - 3 organization.
- Listed as Donor in awards reception program.
- Invitation to awards reception.

## Newsletter Sponsorship - \$1,000

- Donation to a 501 - c - 3 organization.
- Listed as Newsletter Sponsor in awards reception program.
- Invitation to awards reception.
- Corporate logo in each issue of the newsletter.
- Linked corporate logo appears on the website.



## Patron Sponsorship - \$2,000

- Donation to a 501 - c - 3 organization.
- Listed as Patron Sponsor in awards reception program.
- Invitation to awards reception.
- Appreciation award presented at awards reception.
- Corporate logo in each issue of the newsletter.
- Linked corporate logo revolving on front page of website.
- Authorized use of Governor's Cup logo in advertising.
- Literature distributed in promotional packet given to each boat.

## Benefactor Sponsorship - \$5,000

- Donation to a 501 - c - 3 organization.
- Listed as Benefactor Sponsor in awards reception program.
- Invitation to awards reception.
- Appreciation award presented at awards reception.
- Corporate logo and small ad in each issue of the newsletter.
- Linked corporate logo revolving on front page of website.
- Authorized use of Governor's Cup logo in advertising.
- Receive a large Governor's Cup flag for display.
- Literature distributed in promotional packet given to each boat.
- Space provided for corporate banner at tournaments.
- Two VIP passes to all tournament and program functions.



## Corporate Sponsorship - \$10,000

- Donation to a 501 - c - 3 organization.
- Listed as Corporate Sponsor in awards reception program.
- Invitation to awards reception.
- Appreciation award presented at awards reception.
- Corporate logo and half-page ad in each issue of newsletter.
- Linked corporate logo revolving on front page of website.
- Authorized use of Governor's Cup logo in advertising.
- Receive a large Governor's Cup flag for display.
- Literature distributed in promotional packet given each boat.
- Space provided for corporate banner and display (where space is available) at tournaments.
- Six VIP passes to all tournament and program functions (included with boat registration).
- 50% reduction of entry fee for representative boat in each tournament.
- Each tournament will note CGBS Corporate Sponsors in their brochures, booklets, and/or website.
- First option for Corporate Sponsorship in subsequent years.
- Ex-officio member of the Advisory Board of Directors.



# How to Join the Billfishing Team

South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

Fill out Donor Form below and forward to:

Wallace Jenkins / Amy Dukes

SCDNR

PO Box 12559

Charleston SC 29422-2559

[DukesA@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:DukesA@dnr.sc.gov) or 843-953-9365

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Level \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\* If including payment, please make checks payable to: Harry Hampton Fund – SCGC \***

After receiving your pledge, an invoice will be sent to you for payment. When payment has been received, we will forward the appropriate promotional items for the donor level you have chosen and request an electronic copy of your business logo for use in the Governor's Cup Newsletter, website Sponsor list, and other publications as appropriate.



# DNR